

# THE EVENING STAR,

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THEODORE W. NOTES, Editor

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## A Very Grave Emergency.

The railroad problem has put a new phase on matters, congressional, political and business. We are suddenly confronted with a most grave question, the full scope and ramifications of which are not as yet within the comprehension of anybody. And yet everybody is concerned. Everybody wants the question solved; and upon the proper solution a very great deal depends.

Congress cannot afford to run away from this question, or deal with it hurriedly. Adjournment should wait. Legislation hastily knocked together might do more harm than good; might miss the main point; might plague both parties in controversy and all parties in interest. The eight-hour day applied to railroad work is but one feature of the controversy. The principle of arbitration is but another feature. Features are too numerous to mention, and they are multiplying all the time.

A political campaign is on, with the main issues well defined. Such matters, foreign and domestic, as the administration has dealt with are under challenge by the republicans and under defense by the democrats. Mr. Hughes is on the stump, and Mr. Wilson is expected there. But a railroad strike, which should even briefly paralyze freight and passenger traffic among the states, would subordinate everything else, and turn discussion into channels battling to all explorers. It would be impossible to describe the confusion that might result.

As for business, who may attempt to picture the extent of its losses and distress? Dislocations such as the country has never known would ensue. The health of the people, the solvency of firms, the obligations of good citizenship, would all be put to the hazard. A sort of anarchy might set up, with every community divided on the merits of the contending forces.

Nobody need shut his eyes to the fact that this is a job politicians do not like. They would, if possible, evade it. At a time like this they walk warily, and it is thoroughly human for them to walk so. Such as are candidates for office want votes, and such as do not want office for themselves are soliciting office for friends. And both capital and labor command votes.

But the emergency is here, must be met, and should be met in a spirit as broad as the country and embodying the whole welfare of the country. It transcends partisanship, and is far too big for makeshifts.

Absence of arbitration does not necessarily prevent a preliminary discussion sufficiently extensive to bring the merits of the case to attention.

The commander who declined to authenticate the report of a French sailor that the Deutschland had been captured showed a commendable discretion.

One of the gentlemen qualified to speak of the pleasures an American tourist can find on his own continent is Charles E. Hughes.

Warships whose business it is to catch submarines are now expected to move northward to the neighborhood of Long Island sound.

## Rumania Strikes Quickly.

Rumania's explanation of the reasons why she has declared war on Austria-Hungary consists of political rather than physical grounds of action. It is purely a move of self-interest, justified by the contention that Austria-Hungary had by its aggression against Serbia violated the terms of the triple alliance, which, it appears, Rumania was in some way a party. It is of small moment, however, at this time, though of interest to historians, just why Rumania cast her lot with the allies save in the disclosure that in the judgment of the statesmen at Bucharest the trend of war is against the central powers and in favor of the allies.

Rumania lost no time in striking after declaring war, pushing her forces over the boundary into Hungary through two passes of the Transylvanian Alps, one facing Austria at Kronstadt and the other at Hermannstadt. If these passes are carried and held a severe blow would be dealt to Austria, as a way would be opened for an eventual advance of Rumanian and probably Russian forces down the valley of the Maros river, which flows into the Theiss at Szeged, which is about 100 miles southeast of Budapest. From the Rumanian border to the Maros at points of present attack is between forty and fifty miles. The country of the present Rumanian onset is roughly mountainous. In all probability Rumania has no purpose as against Austria-Hungary save to occupy as much as possible of Transylvania, the possession of which is one of her dearest objects. In case of Russian co-operation, however, entrance into Hungary from Rumania would have a military rather than a political value.

does not intend to declare war on Rumania, even though Russian troops are permitted to cross Rumanian territory to attack the Bulgarian forces from the north. It would seem to make but little difference whether Bulgaria declares war or not so long as the Rumanian army, now estimated at 800,000 men, is in the field striking against forces of the central powers and thus engaging a probably equivalent number of troops who otherwise might be used against the entente armies elsewhere. Berlin has promptly declared war against Rumania.

Even though Bulgaria does not declare war against Rumania it is inevitable that she should weaken her attack in Macedonia and Thessaly to provide against a possible attack from the north. She is now exposed to invasion from that direction by either Rumanian or Russian troops, and, in fact, is in a most desperately difficult position. No matter how well her small army may fight, it is now confronted with heavy odds and with small prospect of any advantage resulting from participation in the great war. A suggestion is noted in some comments abroad on the situation to the effect that Bulgaria may furnish the next surprise of the war by changing sides. Stranger things have happened in the cause of this cataclysmic outburst.

## Murdoch.

This bears the date line of Vancouver: "Former Representative Victor Murdoch, Kansas progressive leader, has sailed on the liner Empress of Japan for a three-month tour of the orient."

It has been two months and better since those bull moosers with Mr. Murdoch at their head registered their fiasco at Chicago. The announcement was made then that in a fit of disgust Mr. Murdoch would leave the country for a short stay—to give himself time to cool off and the country time to repent of its folly. But, as is seen, he has just departed.

Well, before the three months are up the country will have declared itself. Either Mr. Wilson will have been inducted, or Mr. Hughes designated to take his place.

Likewise, too, the election figures will have been thoroughly analyzed. We shall all know then how many of the bull moosers supported the republican, how many the democratic ticket.

The irreconcilables—the last ditchers—insist that, despite the present situation, there will be a bull moose party left after November, and that it will reach proportions greater than in 1912. Truth is mighty, and will prevail. It is impossible to keep a good party down. There is, and will remain, a crying need for an organization not dominated by the "interests."

If this should prove true, who will lead? Col. John M. Parker, who is still holding on to his vice presidential nomination with a grip that seems inspired by hope? He is not well placed geographically, and is hardly a national figure.

Would Mr. Murdoch fill the bill? Geographically, he is all right. Kansas is central, and the habitat of reforms and reformers. He is a national figure, from long service in Congress.

But will not this escapade, so to say, bar him? He who fights and runs away may live to fight another day, but how about the man who declines a fight and runs away? Should not Mr. Murdoch have remained at home and stood up to both of the old parties? He has denounced both; and as he would not accept either in this year's contest, would it not have been better for his future had he conquered his desire to see the orient at this time, and struggled, even vainly, to free his beloved country from the clogging agencies that have her gripped?

This trip is a mystery. With hair and temperament and vocabulary all of the same color, and that color denoting a fondness for a scrap, Mr. Murdoch has turned his back on as pretty a scrap as has ever been staged in America.

Continued Zeppelin raids indicate Germany's belief that it is desirable to keep an enemy as thoroughly irritated as possible.

Always industrious, the interstate commerce commission is constantly confronted by the probability that its duties will be increased.

## Politics and Strenuousity.

There may be "rest for the weary," but not for the presidential candidate. All of Mr. Wilson's hours are crowded, and certainly Mr. Hughes' are. The adjournment of Congress will not lighten Mr. Wilson's burden. He will turn then to the business of the campaign, and, whether at Shadow Lawn or on the jump asking for votes, find use for every hour of daylight. Chairman McCormick and his lieutenants will take the place of democratic senators and representatives at Mr. Wilson's elbow, and ask for suggestions about campaign ways and means. Mr. Wilson is the democratic captain, and no mistake. He is not a usurper, but holds his place by invitation. His party has made him what he is.

Mr. Hughes left home with a program which at the outside included not more than a dozen speeches. It was expressly stated that there would be no deliveries from the rear platform of his railway coach. The impression conveyed was of a fast train hurrying past small stations, with no opportunity for those

who might gather there to get even a glance at the distinguished passenger. But the program soon landed in the discard. Mr. Hughes has not only utilized the platform of his coach, but made sometimes a dozen speeches in a single day. Very properly, he has responded whenever and wherever possible to every cordial manifestation of interest in his candidacy. Small crowds at small places have been treated with as much consideration as large crowds at large places.

An interesting announcement in connection with the republican campaign is that Mr. Hughes' second stumping tour, which is to begin almost immediately after the present tour has ended, may carry the candidate as far south as Texas. This is the first hint of a journey south. Hitherto the old arrangement, of conceding that section—the lower south—to the democracy, has been one of the bases of calculations.

If Mr. Hughes makes this journey it should prove one of the most attractive features of the contest. It will mean confidence on his part in the situation elsewhere, and a desire to face audiences in states where his party has not for years, in either local or national campaigns, had a look-in. Personally, Mr. Wilson is not popular in some of the southern states, and certain of his policies have been severely criticized there; but he is the democratic national leader, and as such is now carrying the party's standard in a battle for a renewal of power, and opposing him is ticklish business for local leaders.

For some time past the tendency to reduce every controversy to a question of definition has been strong. Astonishment is often felt at the amount of perplexity that can be thrown around an apparently simple query. "What constitutes an eight-hour day?" is the latest example.

During a presidential campaign it is difficult to conduct any discussion affecting public interests in such a way as to prevent suspicion that politics is entering into it.

The impression made by a man's campaign reflect too much political feeling to be regarded as unbiased criticism.

Burial of the pitchfork by Senator Tillman will not prevent a large number of hatchets from remaining in evidence.

Eight-hour day computations threaten to call for the higher mathematics before a final answer is reached.

## SHOOTING STARS.

BY PHILANDER JOHNSON.

### An Obsolete Wish.

"Times have changed." "Yes," replied Mr. Growcher. "I don't believe you'll ever hear any of the youngsters now growing up wishing for the kind of pie their mothers used to make."

"De man dat don't believe nuffin' nobody tells him," said Uncle Eben, "ought to look over de kind of company he's been keepin' an' make a change."

### It Has Been Done.

They are not easy to explain—those ancestors, both brave and strong, who never saw a railway train. And yet contrived to get along.

### Native Product.

"We have scenery in America as beautiful as any in the world." "Yes," replied Mr. Dustin Stax. "And we're beginning to appreciate the fact that scenery is one thing that we wouldn't need to import even if we could."

### Looking for Information.

"I'm going home and tell my constituents a few things," remarked Senator Sorghum.

"You think they need instruction?"

"Oh, no. I'm looking for information on my own account. I want to try 'em out and see whether they are good-natured and willing to listen to me as usual."

### Every feller.

Every feller fur himself! It seems a curious plan. With each a-grabbin' fur the pelf From every other man! Every feller day an' night A-keepin' out his eye To claim whatever is in sight Or get it on the sly!

### But every feller on his way.

Needs other fellers' aid, And he who never will obey Can't hope to be obeyed. You can't hold happiness alone An' hide it on a shelf. There never was a feller known Who lived all fur himself.

### Not Like Theodore.

From the Chicago News. Neither Mr. Hughes nor President Wilson can say undisputed things in the solemn, convincing way of Col. Roosevelt.

### Losing Friends?

From the Indianapolis News. The older they get the fewer friends the initiative, referendum and recall seem to have.

### Unwelcome Sound!

From the Chicago Post. By listening hard the small boy can hear the not-so-far-distant tinkle of the school bell.

### Shells Still Bursting.

From the Chicago News. There is talk of peace in Europe, but they are not stopping any explosive shells with it.

### Misleading Politicians.

From the Philadelphia Inquirer. The trouble is that too many of our "leading politicians" are misleading.

### Dangerous Moisture.

From the Boston Transcript. The most dangerous humidity during a heat wave is the kind you buy in a bottle.

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## Fall OPENING SALE OF Housefurnishings

Buy now, and buy liberally—each item is at a cut price, and we cannot promise when such values will be repeated. Kann's—Third Floor.

 Berlin Saucepan, with cover, 5-qt. capacity. Fall Opening special..... <b>98c</b>	 Berlin Kettle, with cover, high-grade domestic manufacture, 5-qt. capacity. Fall Opening special..... <b>98c</b>	 Combinet, white enamel, seamless, the new straight shape, cover and ball handle, slight imperfections. Fall Opening special..... <b>79c</b>	 Tea Kettle, in high-grade aluminum, seamless, heavy quality, 5-qt. capacity. Fall Opening special..... <b>\$1.69</b>	 Cut Glass Water Set, pretty floral and spray design, in light cutting, includes 1 jug and 6 tumblers to match. Fall Opening special..... <b>\$1.19</b>	 Fruit or Jelly Press, made strong and durable. Fall Opening special..... <b>17c</b>	 Gas Iron, high-grade, polished, guaranteed, with metal hose. Fall Opening special..... <b>\$1.49</b>	 Glass Tumblers, in thin blown plain style, nicely finished quality. Fall Opening special..... <b>4c</b>	 Fruit Jar, Easy Seal, glass-top kind, choice of pints or quarts. Fall Opening special, each..... <b>4c</b>	 VACUUM SWEEPER of a high-grade make with an adjustable brush, a child can operate it, very light in weight, brings out the true colors of your carpet. Fall Opening special..... <b>\$3.98</b>	 Fireproof Casserole, brown outside with white lining, regular size. Special..... <b>21c</b>	 Mirror, in oval shade, white enamel frame, 12-x-18, good quality glass. Fall Opening special..... <b>98c</b>
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The demand for these smartly fitting, chic new fall skirts has exceeded that of many years past for this season of the year.

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